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BALTIC PORT INSTALLATIONS

A. Port of Riga

The port of Riga is divided into four harbors: Riga Harbor, Milgravis (Mühlgraben) Harbor, the Bolderaa Harbor, and Winter Harbor. The installations with railroad connection to the main freight station lie mainly on the eastern side of the Daugava River, north of the railroad and highway bridges over the river. The depth of the Daugava from its mouth to Riga averages about 7.3 meters.

1. Riga Harbor

a. Upper Part

The upper part of Riga Harbor is located south of the railroad and highway bridges mentioned above, and serves as a mooring place for log-rafts. Wood-storage places and sawmills are also located in its area.

b. Lower Part

The lower part of Riga Harbor is along the east bank of the Daugava River north of the above-mentioned railroad and highway bridges, and consists of the Municipal Quay, the Customs Quay, the Andreja Quay, and the Export Quay.

The Municipal Quay is 1,200 meters long (water depth: 7.3 meters) and serves freight and passenger traffic. Freight vessels unload coal and take on cargoes of grain, flax, and baled goods.

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The Customs Quay is 1,025 meters long (water depth: 7.3 meters) and serves for the discharge of cargoes of baled goods. It possesses loading facilities for 14 ships. The quay is provided with a 130-ton capacity floating crane, ten cranes of 10-to-25-ton capacity (1941 information cites two electric cranes), and nine warehouses with a total floor space of 4.45 acres.

The Andreja Quay (Andreja Sala) is 600 meters long (water depth: 7.3 meters). It is separated from the Customs Quay by a small basin, the Andreja Harbor. The quay serves as a berth for tugs and smaller vessels, and is provided with the following facilities: grain elevator with 20,000-ton storage capacity, herring-storage area of 2.4 acres, cold-storage plant with 16,000-ton capacity, sheds and warehouses with total floor space of 6.67-acres, five coal dumps covering 38.43 acres, and the municipal power plant.

The Export Quay is separated from the Andreja Quay by the Export Harbor. It has a granite wall, and is 950 meters long (water depth: 7.3 meters). A 400-meter extension of the quay wall was planned in 1941. The quay is provided with loading facilities for 16 ships or 30 ships in two rows, 14 warehouses with total floor space of 1.32 acres, a cold-storage plant with 0.3-acre of floor space, and numerous railroad connections. The quay is used for export of wood, and import of coal and oil.

Installations along the left bank of the Daugava River from south to north are: (1) The "A-B" Embankment which has a quay 1.3 kilometers long, and forms a 560-meter long basin (water depth: 6.5 meters). It is used for the discharge of coal and coke and has two coal dumps with an area of 14.47 acres. (2) The Kip Sala (Kieperhol) Embankment which serves the loading of wood.

2. Milgravis (Mühlgraben) Harbor

This harbor is located about 6 kilometers north-northeast of the Andreja Quay, on the west shore of Lake Stint (Kisezers), and approximately 7.5 kilometers southeast of the mouth of the Daugava River. It is an auxiliary installation of the port of Riga and a connecting link between the Daugava River on the west and Lake Stint (Kisezers) on the east. It has a quay about 1,500 meters long on the south and east sides, and a water depth of 7.9 meters. The harbor is provided with loading and unloading areas, storage sheds, one crane, a small ship-repair yard on the northern shore, fuel-pumping installations, and a railroad connection.

3. Bolderaa Harbor

This harbor is located on the western bank of the Daugava River about 1,700 meters from the mouth of the river. It serves as an auxiliary installation of Riga Harbor where ships may berth for the winter. It has an artificial basin with a quay about 1,400 meters long. It is provided with several warehouses, a coaling installation, two cranes of 20-ton capacity, and railroad connection with Riga. It is separated from adjoining Winter Harbor by a dam with a railroad drawbridge.

4. Winter Harbor

This harbor is located next to Bolderaa Harbor, north of Daugagriva, 10.5 kilometers north-northwest of Riga Harbor, and on the west bank of the Daugava River, a short distance from the mouth of the Daugava.

Other installations in the port area include the following: A large grain elevator of 20,000-ton capacity is located west-southwest of the steam-power plant on the Andreja Quay. Grain can be loaded into the elevator at the rate of 80-100 tons per hour. The building has four stories and is about 130-140 meters long.

The steam-power plant just mentioned, located on the Andreja Quay, has an output of 30,000-40,000 kilowatts covering an area of 180 meters x 150 meters. The switching station and the transformer station are located farther to the south. The plant consists of a boiler and machine house, and a closed block of buildings, with smokestacks which are visible at a great distance.

There are two lighthouses, on moles, one on each side of the entrance to the port. The lighthouse on the western mole is 31.4 meters high, while the lighthouse on the eastern mole is only 7.9 meters high.

B. Port of Tallin

The port of Tallin is divided into three parts: the Old Harbor, the New Harbor, and the Fishing Harbor.

1. The Old Harbor (Vanasadam)

This is also known as the Commercial Harbor and lies on the south side of the roadstead. It is surrounded by moles and breakwaters. The harbor extends about 900 meters in a north-south direction and about 1,250 meters in an east-west direction, encompassing an area of approximately 74 acres. The Old Harbor includes five basins and the Outer Harbor.

a. Harbor Basin 1

This basin has an area of 4 1/3 acres, a water depth of 6-7.6 meters, and a quay 677 meters long. It is provided with narrow-gauge railroad connection.

b. Harbor Basin 2

This basin has an area of 11 3/4 acres, a water depth of 7-9.4 meters, and a quay 1,000 meters long. It is provided with four fixed cranes, one of 3.5-ton capacity and the other three of 1.5-ton capacity each, four floating cranes of 25-to 60-ton capacity, and a narrow-gauge railroad connection.

c. Harbor Basin 3

This basin has an area of 15 acres, a water depth of 8.1 - 10.5 meters, and a quay 826 meters long. It is provided with six mobile cranes, one of 3-ton capacity and five of 1.5-ton capacity each, and narrow-gauge railroad connection.

d. Outer Harbor Basin

This basin has an area of 13 acres, a water depth of 7.5-9.4 meters, and a quay 267 meters long. It is provided with narrow-gauge railroad connection.

e. Harbor Construction Basin (Hafenbaubecken)

This basin has an area of 5 acres, a water depth of 5.5 meters, and a quay 840 meters long. It is connected with Harbor Basin 2 by a canal spanned by a swing bridge, and is provided with narrow-gauge railroad connection.

f. Outer Harbor

It has an area of 24½ acres, a water depth of 7-10 meters, and a quay 950 meters long.

Other installations and equipment located in the Old Harbor area are: a grain elevator or silo with 13,000-ton storage capacity, located between Harbor Basin 1 and Harbor Basin 2; two oil tanks of 10,900-ton capacity and several sheds, located 150 meters southeast of the center of Harbor Basin 1, and provided with narrow-gauge railroad connection; a second tank farm consisting of several large, bright tanks and dark sheds, located southeast of the above-mentioned fuel tanks, and provided with a narrow-gauge railroad connection (depot supplies fuel oil to local consumers); numerous warehouses; coal sheds with a total 13,000-ton storage capacity; three modern cold-storage plants; numerous tenders and punts and four floating drydocks of 13.7-to 17.7-meter width, and 1,000-to 3,000-ton capacity.

2. New Harbor (Uussadam)

It is also known as the Naval Harbor and lies in the southwest corner of the roadstead. It consists of the Naval and Commercial Harbor, which is surrounded by moles, the Winter Harbor, which is also surrounded by moles, and the adjoining Open Harbor in the northwestern part of the New Harbor. The New Harbor is a naval base and serves as a berth for destroyers, torpedo boats, and minesweepers, and is also suitable for submarines. The harbor can be kept open in the winter by means of icebreakers.

Total extension of the harbor in a north-south direction is 800 meters and in an east-west direction, 750 meters. In the northwestern corner is a floating drydock.

In the harbor area a naval arsenal, consisting of two material warehouses, a brick building, armament workshops, which in 1940 were producing munitions, mines, and torpedoes, and a small ammunition dump of little significance, is located about 430 meters southwest of the Naval and Commercial Harbor.

a. Naval and Commercial Harbor

It is 71 2/3 acres in area, has a water depth of 4.6-5.8 meters, and a quay 750 meters long. There are narrow-gauge connections to the main railroad station and to the railroad freight station. This harbor serves the timber export trade and possesses several timber-storage lots.

Adjoining the Naval and Commercial Harbor on the east is an obsolete shipyard, the Peters Shipyard, which is provided with narrow-gauge railroad connection, equipment workshops, a marine railway for ships up to 1,500-ton displacement, and two massive sheds with corrugated roofs and lights on top.

Other installations of this harbor are: oil and gasoline tanks (nine large and 12 small tanks) in the southern part of the harbor which are provided with a narrow-gauge railroad connection; they supply fuel to local consumers and to ships, pumping stations, pipe lines, and several warehouses.

b. Winter Harbor

It has a water depth of 4.6-5.5 meters, and a quay 680 meters long.

c. Open Harbor

The harbor for government vessels, or Open Harbor, is not surrounded by moles, but is completely open. It has an area of 9 3/4 acres, a water depth of 5-6 meters, and a quay 710 meters long. It is provided with a large crane belonging to the Becker Shipyard.

3. Fishing Harbor

It is located on the south side of the roadstead and has a 3-meter deep entrance, which is protected on the northwest by a stone mole. The harbor is suitable only for fishing smacks.

There are two shipyards in the port area beside the Peters Shipyard discussed above.

Other installations in the area of the Port of Tallin include the following:

The Becker Shipyard is located in the northwestern part of Tallin, on the northeast shore of Kopli Bay and is provided with a 100-ton crane and railroad connection. Further information is lacking.

The Baltic Shipyard is also located on the northwestern part of Tallin, on the north shore of Kopli Bay, northwest of the Becker Shipyard, and is provided with two large slipways and railroad connection.

In 1941 the Soviets were considering expanding both of these shipyards.

A seaplane base is located east of and adjoining the shipyard in the New Harbor. It is provided with three hangars.

An airfield is located on the northeast bank of the Tallin Upper Lake and possesses facilities for both land and seaplanes. It is equipped with one hangar, a radio station, and a pier for seaplanes.

A shipping and naval coastal radio station is located about 875 meters west of the fuel dump in the New Harbor, 400 meters south of the southwestern corner of the Gulf of Finland. The station lies between two 35-to 40-meter high masts.

The broadcasting transmitter for the Estonian SSR, type of installation unknown, is located on the eastern edge of the city, about 2 kilometers from the Old Harbor, and adjoins a lighthouse toward the southeast.

A steam-power plant with an installed capacity of 4,500 kilowatts is located about 250 meters south of the Gulf of Finland and 875 meters west of the Harbor Basin 2. The plant is provided with railroad connection. Its machine and generator house is of red brick construction with the highest smokestack in Tallin.

The staff buildings of the former Estonian Naval Staff are located 350 meters south of the southeast corner of the New Harbor. The buildings are equipped with short-wave transmitter and receiver installations.

A building, reportedly the Headquarters of the Operational Staff of the Soviet Naval Combat Forces, is located 1,725 meters south of the east mole of the seaplane base.

A large underground ammunition dump is located on the narrow Palyassar Peninsula.

Port of Klaypeda (Memel)

The port of Klaypeda consists of the Winter Harbor and New Harbor with quays about [illegible] meters in total length. The port is provided with railroad connections. The "Sfierballast" Quay is 325 meters long (water depth: 8 meters). The quay on the Dange River is about 2,000 meters long (water depth: about [illegible] meters). The port also includes the "Lotsen" Harbor (pilot harbor). The "Sfierballast" Quay has six cranes of about 3-ton capacity. The "Lotsen" Harbor has a crane of 35-ton capacity.

A shipyard is located south of the Winter Harbor. This shipyard has five berths for ships up to 2,000 tons, one floating dock of 3,000-ton capacity ([illegible] meters long, 24 meters wide), and one crane of 60-ton capacity. Storage depots are located north of the "Lotsen" Harbor.

Port of Paldiski

The harbor of the port of Paldiski has a water area of 24.2 acres, and a depth of 6.5 meters. Its quay is 400 meters long, and can accommodate three or four medium-sized ships. The harbor is provided with railroad connection and several granaries.

This harbor was formerly of little importance, but is being expanded into a naval base by the Russians.

Port of Liyepaya

Liyepaya is the second most important port of the Latvian SSR. It is also of considerable importance as a naval base.

The port consists of five parts: the Outer Harbor, the Harbor Canal (or Municipal Canal), the Winter Harbor, the Commercial Harbor (or New Harbor), and the Naval Harbor. The total water area of these harbors is 1,986 acres, of which [illegible] acres can be navigated by ships. There is also an additional harbor called the Wood Harbor.

1. Outer Harbor

It is bounded by the 1,650-meter-long North Mole, two breakwaters on the west (the 1,700-meter-long north breakwater and the 700-meter-long south breakwater), and the 2,123-meter-long South Mole. The depth of the Outer Harbor is 10 meters. Three entrances from the Baltic Sea lead into the Outer Harbor. The northern entrance is navigable only for small vessels, while the middle entrance, 210 meters wide and 9 meters deep, and the southern entrance, 200 meters wide and 8 meters deep, are navigable for larger vessels.

2. Municipal or Harbor Canal

It is actually the commercial harbor and is the oldest and most important part of the port of Liyepaya. The canal is 1.38 kilometers long, 100 meters wide, and 5.8-7.3 meters deep. It connects the Baltic Sea with Lake Liyepaya and has 2,888 meters of quays.

Two bridges, the railroad bridge toward the eastern end of the Municipal Canal, and the road bridge (which connects "Old Liyepaya" with "New Liyepaya"), east of the center of the canal, divide the canal into three parts. The road bridge is 135 meters long, 14 meters wide, is of iron construction, rests on piers, and has limited capacity.

Harbor installations at the Municipal Canal, from the direction of the Outer Harbor, include the following: a grain elevator of 15,000-ton storage capacity, sheds and warehouses for baled goods, an area of 30,000 square meters for customs goods, a 375-meter-long customs quay, 33 sheds and warehouses with a total storage capacity of 85,000-tons, 47 storage areas for 250,000 barrels of herring, coal-dump areas with mechanized handling facilities, a freight railroad station with 25,000-ton storage space on the northwest shore of Lake Liyepaya (north side of the Municipal Canal), a cold-storage house, and an area for wood storage.

3. Winter Harbor

It is located at the western exit of the Municipal Canal, and has a water depth of 6.1 meters. The harbor has a quay 1,643 meters long. The harbor is used mostly for import shipments of petroleum, and export shipments of wood. For this reason, there are numerous timber yards near the quay. Five oil tanks, equipped with 600 meters of piping and located 300 meters east of the Winter Harbor, permit storage of 5,000 tons of oil. Railroad tracks run directly to the quay. Loading facilities include a 33-ton-lifting-capacity floating crane and six shore cranes.

4. Commercial Harbor or New Harbor

It is also know as the Avant Pier. It is located in the southern part of the Outer Harbor, but is separated from the Outer Harbor itself on the north and on the west by moles and breakwaters. The area of the Commercial Harbor is about 178 acres (600 meters x 1,200 meters) (water depth: 5.8-7.3 meters). The 900-meter-long quay on the south side is provided with merchandise sheds with 1,500 square meters of floor space, and railroad connection. Regular passenger steamers berth in this harbor.

5. Naval Harbor

This is an ice-free harbor, consisting of the Naval Harbor Canal and the North Basin. The entrance to the Naval Harbor from the northern end of the Outer Harbor is protected by moles. The Naval Harbor can be navigated by ships with drafts up to 9 meters.

The Naval Harbor Canal is 3,350 meters long, 130 meters wide, and 9-10 meters deep. The North Basin is provided with two quays, which can handle a total of 35 vessels, its own water-supply installation, and its own power plant.

A road bridge leads over the Naval Harbor Canal 400 meters east of the Outer Harbor, and near the entrance of the Canal. It is a drawbridge of iron construction, consisting of two parts and supported on two piers. The bridge is 15 meters wide and capable of bearing very heavy loads.

On the east side of the North Basin is a shipyard, where ships are repaired, machine parts for railroads and ships are produced, and airplanes are constructed. The shipyard has two dry docks (25.4 and 28 meters wide, and 178.8 meters long, each), one 800-ton floating drydock, one 250-ton marine railroad, other workshops, and railroad connections.

A fuel farm is located at the southern quay in the eastern part of the Naval Harbor Canal and reputedly consists of four aboveground and two (?) underground fuel tanks. There is also a pier equipped with refueling apparatus.

A submarine harbor with workshops for minor repairs, fuel tanks, and an admiralty office building is situated in the northwest corner of the Winter Basin at the northern quay.

A naval provision depot with 12 warehouses is located 600 meters south of the Naval Harbor Canal, directly south of the North Basin, and 300 meters south of the railroad workshops. The depot is equipped with a loading ramp and railroad connections.

6. West Harbor

This harbor is located northeast of the mouth of the Harbor Canal in Lake Liyepaya.

The extensively developed railroad lines make Liyepaya a great transshipping center. Within Liyepaya, four different track gauges are in use. A large railroad yard with workshops for the construction and repair of rolling stock is located 600 meters west of the Winter Harbor, and extends for about 3 kilometers in a northeasterly direction to within 700 meters of the Naval Harbor Canal. A high smokestack, visible from great distances, marks the location of the railroad workshops.

The seaplane base is a former German base, suitable for handling fairly large groups of planes. It is located inside the Outer Harbor directly north of the entrance to the Naval Harbor Canal. It has a built-up area of 300 x 150 meters. The base is provided with two hangars (20 x 60 meters and 25 x 70 meters). Billets, storage sheds, a 10,000-liter fuel-storage tank, a radio direction finder, and railroad and highway connections. The breakwater requires frequent repairs due to the action of the waves and ice floes. The radio station is located 200 meters east of the Outer Harbor, 400 meters north of the bridge over the Naval Harbor Canal, and consists of several buildings and two 45-meter antenna masts.

The coastal fortifications consist of a well-camouflaged wall with concrete casemates, machine-gun nests, a well-camouflaged artillery observation post situated 500 meters south of the North Mole, and other installations. The port has become a stronghold of Soviet coastal defense.

A 6,000-kw steam-power plant is located on the north shore of the Main Canal, 600 meters east of the Winter Harbor.

A lighthouse is located on the South Mole at the entrance to the Main Canal.

Liyepaya is the main railroad station as well as terminal of the Liyepaya-Riga railroad line, the Liyepaya-Klaipeda (Memel) line, and the Liyepaya-Pavenyay line. It is also the terminal of the narrow-gauge Liyepaya-Akmyane and Liyepaya-Telsiay lines. The city is on the main thoroughfare to Klaipeda, Riga, and Telsiay.

Ventspils (Windau)

The port is located at the mouth of the Venta River and consists of an outer harbor, and an inner harbor used for commerce. The outer harbor is formed by two 750-meter-long moles built out in a northwesterly direction into the Baltic Sea. The depth of the water in the outer harbor, which serves as an anchorage for ships, is about 5.5-6 meters and about 2.7 meters along the moles. An 8-meter-deep channel leads into the main harbor (the mouth of the Venta River).

The inner harbor has an area of 700 acres, of which 371 acres are navigable for ships. This inner, or commercial, harbor stretches 13 kilometers upstream. The bed of the Venta River does not muddy.

On the north shore of the Venta is a one-kilometer-long elevator quay (water depth: 5-9 meters), which adjoins the 700-meter-long customs quay. The elevator quay is provided with warehouses and storage sheds with a floor space of 49,500 square meters, a grain elevator holding 28,000 tons of grain, and a cold-storage building for storing 2,870 tons of butter. Also on the north bank is a fixed 45-ton crane which is visible from a great distance, and a mobile 10-ton crane.

The south shore of the Venta has no transshipping installations, but there are good berths 5-8.2 meters deep. Twenty troopships can berth at these docks at the same time.

Along the north bank of the Venta are extensive railroad installations running east from the beach via the harbor railroad station and the main railroad station. These installations extend for about 5 kilometers and are part of the wide-gauge (1,435-millimeter) railroad line from Ventspils via Jelgava [Russian:Mitava] to Riga and of the narrow-gauge (600-millimeter) railroad lines from Ventspils via Mazirbe and Dundanga to Stende.

There are also berths for torpedo boats in the harbor. Coastal defenses surround Ventspils harbor.

The port is favorably situated for trade with northern Central Russia, and is suitable as a base for light, seagoing combat vessels.

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